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HOW BIG IS THE DISTRICT OFFICER'S JOB?

By L. S. Matthew, R.O.

Five million, or to be more exact, 5,316,000 acres is the average land area of the 21 districts comprising the shelterbelt project. On a state basis the proportion of land in farms varies from 75.4 percent in South Dakota to 94.8 percent in Nebraska. The average size of farms for these two states is 445.4 and 348.9 acres, respectively. These figures applied to the district acreage indicate that the number of farm operators in the average district is around 12,000.

The district officer then, with three subdistrict assistants, (the average for the Project) is responsible for the development of the shelterbelt program on a five million acre tract involving 12,000 farm operators. Soil feasibility further limits the plantable area but this, it appears, is more than compensated for in using the state average for percentage of land in farms, which is generally considered low for the area in which the Project is established.

For 1940 the district job of administration involved the expenditure of approximately \$74,000, including field officers' salaries, while 1159 man-months of labor were expended on new planting, replanting, cultivation, rodent control, and other activities. New belts planted averaged 152 miles and 1,840,000 trees were planted as replacements in older belts.

By giving a little thought to the effort required to negotiate for and plant a mile of shelterbelt, organize and train crews, secure cultivation and protection on past and current planting, and the responsibilities connected with the expenditures of funds and the employment of men in the execution of these various activities, we begin to see that the men on the districts have a pretty big job.

KNOCKING AT THE DOOR

With the PSFP program as with various other activities which involve public acceptance and support, the hardest job is very often what might be described as "knocking at the door"--the making of personal contacts with those whose cooperation and aid are desired. This fact has been amply demonstrated on the Kansas Unit in the recent drive for additional cooperation in the form of storage space, rodent control aid, etc., on the part of counties, cities and other groups. Some of the groups which had been mentally "black-listed" insofar as prospective cooperation was concerned came through with substantial offers of cooperation which will materially reduce the Unit's non-labor fund requirements.

A particular case in point was that of a county seat, concerning which it was at first deemed unwise to request free storage space because it was known that all available county space was occupied. Ultimately, however, it was decided to present our needs to the county commissioners with the hope that, at least at some future date, our request might bear fruit. Result: the county is now willingly paying the rent on our comparatively expensive storage quarters at that point.

In the case of a large county seat city, hope of additional cooperation had been, after one or two preliminary contacts, pretty well given up, when there came to the State Office a letter from the Chamber of Commerce of that city stating that they understood we desired more facilities at that point and offering to assist in securing them. The ultimate result in this case is not known as this is written, but the odds appear in favor of getting results on any reasonable request.

While our recent requests for additional cooperation have not been fully met in every case, the results in several instances have exceeded expectations. This fact, incidentally, gives some index of the increasing acceptance of our program by the public generally.

The importance of actually making particular contacts before deciding that cooperation cannot be obtained does not apply alone to the type of cooperation discussed above. That it does not pay to avoid the apparently "tough customer" in such phases of our work as negotiations, cultivation, and I & E contacts, is borne out by reports of our field officers who are able to recount many cases wherein some of the Project's best cooperators have developed out of supposedly impossible material.

The moral seems to be that most people are reasonable in their views and that there is no substitute for frequent personal contacts and discussion in the matter of obtaining acceptance and support for our program regardless of whether the person concerned be a farmer who should have a shelterbelt but has his mind closed to "new-fangled ideas," or an editor, public official, or anyone else. In brief, experience shows that even though the prospect seems hopeless we will oftentimes be pleasantly surprised if we will only "buck up" and keep "knocking at the door."

- J. D. Hall, Kans.

NEBRASKA COMMUNITY WORKING ON 25-MILE-LONG SHELTERBELT

It started last summer on a routine "Show-Me" trip. Among the small group was a representative of the Loup River Public Power District. This individual was particularly interested after seeing several one- and two-year plantings which had special compositions at those points where the power lines crossed the belts.

Quite recently Mr. Kramer, manager of the Loup River Public Power District, approached the office on the possibility of having a continuous series of plantings across the county along U. S. Highway No. 30. Mr. Kramer and I met with the Secretary of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and it was decided at that time that the Chamber should take the initiative to start such a project.

Later another meeting was held, including Mr. Kramer, and the president, secretary, and chairmen of the Agricultural and Roads Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. At this meeting it was decided that there should be a combined meeting including all members of the Agricultural and Roads Committee, and four or five farmers living on the highway in question, making a total of 25 persons. Each person then would be assigned one mile along the highway for which he would be responsible for contacting the owner in regard to establishing a planting along the road.

Having signed up all possible belts in this manner, the next and last step is for the Chamber to give a Dutch lunch, inviting those persons along the highway who did not sign up, along with an equal or larger number of shelterbelt cooperators.

We would dislike missing out on a good Dutch lunch by having a 100% sign up on the initial canvas, but even so, it is not likely that we will try to induce anyone to hold out.

- Floyd W. Hougland - Nebr.

"AUNT NANCY" RETIRES

Not many of us often hear barber shop melody around the shelterbelt office, but some of us boys in the Kinsley District, have been whooping up on "I've Been Working on the Railroad," with gusto lately. You see it's this way. "Aunt Nancy" closed up shop and walked out on us, leaving all to the tax collector. "Aunt Nancy" was the name commonly used for the Wichita and Northwestern Railroad which recently suspended operations, leaving the right-of-way to go back to the landowner. As this right-of-way runs in an east and west direction through the sandier part of Edwards and Pratt Counties, we asked what better use could it be put to than shelterbelts. We've popped the question and have some applications. Perhaps we can erect a monument to "Aunt Nancy" which will preserve her memory and be a source of happiness to those along the way.

- Gaylord Hargadine, Kans.

As this day of Thanksgiving quietly draws to a close and we sit with our memories, we thank Thee for the woods and waters, the birds and flowers, the sunsets over dark woods and the joy of being alive.

- Pennsylvania Angler (Reg. 7 "Books of the Month")

SHELTERBELTS SAVE THANKSGIVING TURKEYS

Every little bit some new benefit of shelterbelts to the agricultural economy of the region blossoms out. Early in November Nebraska suffered an unseasonable cold snap following a rain, and the following story appeared in the Norfolk Daily News:

TURKEY LOSSES LIGHT TO HEAVY IN THIS REGION Shelterbelts Save Birds in Cold on Many Farms in This Region

Northeast Nebraska turkey raisers, like others in Nebraska, suffered losses, some small and others heavy, in the cold spell that virtually froze to death the birds after they had been soaked by a two-day rain.

G. A. Riecker, manager of Pilley and Sons, Norfolk, said from reports received the majority of turkey raisers in this community did not suffer heavily. On a number of farms, shelterbelts saved the birds, he said, adding that a small amount of shelter was sufficient to save the turkeys when the temperature dropped below freezing.

It was estimated that from 20 to 30 percent of Nebraska's crop of 800,000 birds were destroyed by the storm.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

A PEACH OF AN IDEA, ANYWAY

Cooperator Ely Smith was rejoicing. His shelterbelt was planted and all the trees were budding forth. That is, all except in one empty space near his house. As Cooperator Smith gazed at this empty space a bright idea entered his head. What a place for a fruit tree, particularly a peach tree, for above all Ely loved peaches. A vision passed through his mind of himself reclining in the shade of the belt eating a luscious ripe peach. Such pleasant thoughts deserved quick action and a few days later a peach tree of "premium grade" stock was receiving motherly care.

All went well; with favorable August rains Ely could almost see peaches on the trees, and then suddenly a day of darkness descended.

The cultivation crew had arrived for the last cultivation of the season. Ely was about, proud of his trees, especially of one, of which no one but himself knew. He felt so good he let it be known that he would operate the grape hoe. Would the present operator mind? With the usual reluctance the operator stepped from behind the handles. Ely stepped up, took a firm grip on the handles, the tractor roared, and down the row they went. Ely was a master operator, having done this before. All was going well when, alas, Ely zigged when he should have zagged. What happened? Yes, you guessed it. Peach tree survival in the Ely Smith shelterbelt was 0.00.

- Vincent W. Twoomey, Kans.

TO SKIN AND EXHAUST the land will result in undermining the days of our children.

- Theodore Roosevelt, In a Message to Congress.

- Reg.1 "Northern Region News"

ALKALI TOLERANCE OF SHELTERBELT SPECIES

In winter and spring of 1940, an experiment on alkali tolerance of seed and seedlings of shelterbelt species was conducted at St. Paul with seed furnished by the Prairie States Forestry Project. The technique consisted of placing ungerminated and also pregerminated seed on blotters in covered petri dishes which contained alkali solutions of known concentrations. The two types of solutions were a white alkali (sodium sulphate) and black alkali (sodium carbonate). These were selected because they are the most common in soils of semi-arid regions. In the shelterbelt zone, white alkali is relatively more abundant than black alkali. The latter is the more toxic of the two types.

The table given below shows the relative alkali tolerance of ungerminated seed and also of seed which had been allowed to sprout to a length of 1 to 2 centimeters before placing in alkali solutions. In all tests the seed had been pretreated to overcome embryo or seed-coat dormancy before placing in the solutions.

Species	Relative alkali tolerance ^{2/}			
	White alkali		Black alkali	
	Unger-	Preger-	Unger-	Preger-
	minated	minated	minated	minated
	seed	seed	seed	seed
Russian olive	1	1	2	1
Honeylocust	2	7	1	3
Desert Willow	3	3	3	2
Chinese elm	4	4	4	7
Green ash	5	5	5	4
American elm	6	6	17	13
Siberian pea	7	11	7	5
Boxelder	8	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Ponderosa pine	9	8	11	10
Buffalo berry	10	13	10	15
Russian mulberry	11	2	8	(1/)
Rocky Mountain red cedar	12	16	15	16
Hardy catalpa	13	9	6	11
Osageorange	14	12	14	12
Eastern redcedar	15	14	16	14
Chokecherry	16	17	13	9
Black locust	17	18	(1/)	(1/)
Wild plum	18	15	12	6
Kentucky coffeetree	(1/)	10	9	8

1/ No test made.

2/ The most alkali-tolerant species in each series has number 1, and the least alkali-tolerant carries number 16, 17, or 18.

It will be seen, considering all tests, that Russian olive, honeylocust, Chinese elm (*Ulmus pumila*), desert willow, and green ash are the most

alkali-tolerant species. The actual range in tolerance for white alkali was 24,200 to 9,900 parts per million for ungerminated seed and 23,300 to 6,900 parts per million for pregerminated seed. For black alkali it was 8,300 to 2,300 parts per million for ungerminated seed, and 7,400 to 2,750 parts per million for pregerminated seeds.

A surprising feature of the test was that buffalo berry had only an intermediate rating, because one would expect it to rate high, judging by its native habitat in alkaline draws and gulches in the western part of the Dakotas.

Unfortunately, no seed of tamarix or cottonwood was available at time of making the tests. These species, judging by their tolerance of large amounts of white alkali under natural conditions, would probably have rated in the top half-dozen species.

Based purely on the writer's empirical observations, the alkali-tolerance rating as given in the table seems to correspond fairly well with that found for natural or planted trees in the Great Plains. Of course, under conditions in which older plants are growing, alkali tolerance may vary considerably from that found with seed. Older plants invariably stand more alkali than newly germinated seedlings. The presence of calcium in the form of a carbonate (lime) or a sulphate (gypsum) markedly increases the resistance of plants to alkali.

The writer believes the table will have some practical value in aiding field men and nurserymen to select the proper species for certain soils where alkali is likely to be encountered. I would be interested in having them write me on how their idea of the relative alkali tolerance of trees and shrubs in the shelterbelt plantings compares with that found in the tests here discussed.

J. H. Stoeckeler, Lake States

WHY INCREASED AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT MILEAGE?

When we received knowledge of the approved allotments for Fiscal Year 1941, it was apparent that an expenditure for the operation and maintenance of automotive equipment equal to or greater than was made in 1940 would take approximately half our allotment of "Other" money. It was obvious that this would leave us too little money for the other needs in operating the Project, especially since \$1.00 per man-month was ear marked for the purchase of new automotive equipment.

How can a material decrease in operation and repair costs be brought about? This is quite a problem when we take into consideration that much of our equipment is getting very old and additional units have been added. An analysis of our repair costs indicated they were not high, and that very little savings, if any, could be expected if the equipment was driven as many miles as last year. The question naturally arose, "Is it possible to handle the job efficiently and operate our equipment less miles?"

An analysis was made of the mileage driven in July this year as compared with July in Fiscal Year 1940. We found an increase of 12,710 miles for that month this year. This indicated increased rather than decreased

costs. An analysis was also made for August. An increase of 10,258 miles was observed for that month. As a result of these studies, a letter calling attention to conditions in considerable detail was addressed to the District Officers, Nurserymen and Automotive Mechanic. This letter was not written until September 16, and was not received in the field in time for the field personnel to study it and take much action that month. Consequently our automotive equipment was driven 10,747 miles more in September 1940, than in the same month in 1939.

An analysis has now been completed for October, and while an increase is still shown, it has been cut to 2,367 miles. Five out of the eight divisions (4 districts, 2 nurseries, State Office and Central Shop) now show less mileage driven this fiscal year than last. We are confident that we will begin to cut down on the "increase" this month.

A recent general inspection of the district in which the greatest reduction in mileage has been effected showed a better rather than a poorer job completed. This indicates that through better planning not only can a reduction in mileage be effected but the job will benefit rather than suffer.

- A. N. Butler, Okla.

ONE AT A TIME, PLEASE

In 1940 Nebraska opened up Seward County and planted some 25 belts. They must have looked mighty good to the agricultural authorities in that county because this fall the County Agent got out postcards to the farm operators in his county, advising them to take advantage of the program. The card said:

Seward, Nebraska,
October 18, 1940.

Farm Operators
Seward County

Re: Shelterbelt

You have no doubt seen some of the shelterbelt plantings made in Seward County in 1940. They demonstrate that in dry years--when clean cultivation is practiced--that there is enough moisture while these trees are small. Seward County needs more trees. The project is too large and the time needed to provide trees is too long to permit waiting until the last minute. It helps if the ground can be plowed this fall where plantings are to be made in order to catch snow. If you will drop a penny post card to the U.S. Forest Service, York, Nebraska, a field worker will call on you to explain the project. It is worth while.

K. C. Fouts, County Agri. Agent.

A few days later the County ACP Committee also circularized the farm operators in the county with a letter reading as follows:

Seward, Nebraska,
October 23, 1940.

Dear Farm Owners and Operators:

In 1940 the Forest Service through the Prairie States Forestry Project

established 25 shelterbelts in Seward County. By this time, no doubt, most of you have had the privilege of seeing at least one of these belts and have probably marveled at the growth they have made in the past year even under adverse conditions. No doubt the main reason for the fine showing most of the belts have made has been the clean cultivation practices which have been followed by the cooperators in the care of their belt during the summer months.

Again in 1940 \$3.00 per acre can be earned for soil building allowances under the AAA Program for cultivation practices in care of the belt. In addition to this the acreage of cropland utilized by the belt will classify as nondepleting acreage.

At the present time approximately ten miles of new belt have already been negotiated by Seward County farmers, and if those who are interested can immediately let their plans be known it may be possible that Seward County for 1941 could establish 50 miles of new belt. Applications by either postcard or letter should be mailed to UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, YORK, NEBRASKA. Immediately upon receipt, Mr. Harold A. Livers, in charge of the York office, will contact each applicant in regard to location, the determination of width of belt, etc. For 1941, the Forest Service is in position to offer you some choice in the width of your belt. If land use and conditions on the ground call for a belt of less than ten rows it may be possible to slightly reduce the width of the basic belt. Narrow rows three to five row intermediate belts to complete the protective pattern are also available to those who already have or plan to plant one of the wider basic belts.

The AAA feels the planting of these belts fits in so well with the idea of conservation practices, and this office is taking this means of encouraging as many cooperators as possible.

Sincerely yours

MERVIN F. AEGERTER, Chmn.,
Seward County
Agricultural Cons. Association

To this observer it would seem that the negotiations job in Seward County has about been done, except possibly permitting the crowding applicants to sign up. Certainly the Subdistrict Officer there has acquired the kind of help that can't be bought with money.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

"TREES TO TAME THE WIND" SCORES AGAIN

Howard W. Lawton, reporting on a showing of "Trees to Tame the Wind" to a group at the Nebraska Central College, Central City, Nebraska, states on the back of the address card:

"The students were recently given a showing of "The River." After the showing of the F. S. films, Mr. Carrell, president of the College, stated that in his opinion "Trees to Tame the Wind" carried a more forceful lesson than did "The River." Mr. Carrell and his staff were more than appreciative, and as implied above, seemed particularly impressed by the P.S.F.P. film."

ECHOES OF PLANNING

Perhaps some of us who have been sitting in on planning meetings for the last two or three years are inclined to think that the "mills of the gods grind slowly" and that our efforts are not producing results. Let us remember that any change in methods or practices comes slowly.

Edwards County, Kansas, is somewhat ahead of most of the other counties in the State in planning activities, having completed the County organization, mapped the townships, recommended practices for areas, and now has been chosen as one of two counties in the State for special intensive study by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, this study to be based on long-time records. Information gained from this study will be used to formulate a long-time plan or goal.

An application for a shelterbelt was recently received by the Sub-district Officer. When the farmer was contacted we learned that the farm had been purchased recently under the Tenant Purchase Plan of the Farm Security Administration. The local board of three farmers who pass on all purchases had written in the contract that the farmer purchasing under this plan must use the methods of farming recommended by the Planning Committee for that area. This plan includes shelterbelts in all favorable areas. Perhaps we should remember "Ye shall reap if ye faint not."

- Gaylord Hargadine, Kans.

A THOUGHT FOR OUR WILDLIFE

In Nebraska one year a considerable quantity of maize and sorghum grain was collected in anticipation of using it in rodent control work. Because other materials were found to be more effective, large quantities of this grain were later turned over to the State Game Department and used for winter feeding of wildlife.

This grain was collected from belts where it was grown as a cover crop and the shelterbelt being included in the AAA acreage harvesting was not permitted by the farmers.

This type of work appears to offer possibilities for further development. Quantities of grain could be collected from shelterbelts under the same conditions and reserved for feeding wildlife during critical winter periods. Feeding stations could be developed and maintained in shelterbelts which have already become havens for all types of wildlife. The collection of grain, and the development and maintenance of feeding stations would employ labor on work that would be of considerable value.

- L. S. Matthew, R.O.

"In the last analysis each generation has only a life interest in the land and it is our duty to pass it on to posterity, enriched and unimpaired," said Secretary of Agriculture Wickard in a recent address at State College, Pa. "Most of us recognize this today, as some of you Pennsylvania farmers have recognized it for 200 years."

- U.S.D.A. Clip Sheet

SHELTERBELT INSECTS

Contributions concerning rabbits, birds and other wildlife are present in each issue of PLAINS FORESTER, but another group of critters in shelterbelts, equally important, are seldom, if ever, mentioned. I speak of the insects. During the past cultivation season an effort was made to classify the six-footed aliens to be found frequenting 1940 plantings. To narrow a too broad field of endeavor, the insects of older belts will not be included in this report. It is to be expected that some were overlooked but the principal offenders making a noticeable inroad on the trees are listed.

Using the breakdown of types presented in the TM handbook, the score was as follows for the different insects noted:

Defoliators -----	21
Root-feeding -----	2
Sap-feeding -----	2
Bark-girdling ----	1
Boring -----	0

It is to be expected that the relative importance of the groups will vary as the tree grows older. Indeed it is likely that a definite succession of forms, not unlike that of plants or plant diseases, will be the rule. For example, closer examination might well have disclosed the presence of immature boring insects, the adults having had insufficient time to complete the life cycle.

It is evident that the defoliators are in majority in this particular stage of the "campaign." These included 17 caterpillars, 2 beetles, and 2 sawflies. Nine of the "crawlers" were of the horn worm type. It is interesting and significant that most of the horn worms were partial to specific hosts. A few of these were Ceratomia undulosa on Green Ash, C. catalpae on Catalpa, Cressonia juglandis on Walnut, and Haemorrhagia diffinis on Honeysuckle. Others more voracious, such as the White-lined Sphinx (Deilephila lineata), were less particular, feeding on Chinese and American Elm, Apricot, Green Ash, Tamarix, Russian Olive, Honeysuckle and a number of weeds as well--where they could find them.

All of these forms may be listed as potential enemies of shelterbelts. An increased food supply such as that supplied by millions of belt trees may well cause an endemic population to reach epidemic proportions. Planting a number of species and "mixing 'em up" is one way of playing safe in the original composition of a tree belt.

The real danger lies in replanting. How often we despair of ever getting some of the more "choosy" species started in the older problem belts and close the gaps by "socking her heavy" to such old reliables as Honeylocust, and Cottonwood. After a year or two of this our shelterbelts come to resemble pure plantations, just the thing we sought to avoid originally.

A few other items are of interest. Of all trees planted, the insects side with the rabbits in preferring the Chinese Elm. Termites were found widespread on Hackberry which failed to start, and in two cases on cedar shingles set to protect Red Cedar.

-- Paul E. Slabaugh, Kans.

AN AID IN NEGOTIATIONS WORK

As an example of Extension Service cooperation we present the following information which was circulated by postal card to every landowner and tenant in Miner County, South Dakota:

Howard, S. Dak.
October 15, 1940

To All Miner County Farmers:

SIGN UP FOR A SHELTERBELT NOW!!

Now is the time to sign up for 1941 government shelterbelts and prepare the ground for next spring planting.

The Prairie States Forestry Project men are ready to go to work on your farm in a very short time after the application is sent in. If we don't take our quota of trees at once they will be put into some other county. Don't delay. Come to my office soon and make out your application if you want trees.

Very truly yours,

Harmon Boyd
County Extension Agent

SIGN UP FOR A SHELTERBELT NOW!!

This backing by the County Agent has more significance than applications for 1941 plantings. As an agricultural leader he recognizes the relation of trees to farming and is interested in seeing Miner County farmers take advantage of the opportunity to secure the benefits of trees for their farms.

- L. S. Matthew, R.O.

IS THE MELON PATCH FENCED?

The following is a reply to a fencing letter that was sent out from the Subdistrict offices this fall:

"Dear Sir:

I am not a going to fence my Shelterbelt.

Thair has never been a live stock in it at any time only Jack Rabbits and Birds.

My 1937 and 1939 belts are as good as any in this part of the State. (Granted this is true.)

Mr. Ralph Johnson if you make me fence these belts I'll never give you another truck load of mellons:

Yours truly,

A. F. Fertig
Garfield, Kansas."

Mr. Fertig does have an excellent shelterbelt that has controlled the movement of the sand on most of his farm and he keeps it in excellent shape.

Although the belt itself is not fenced, his pastures are fenced tightly and his herd is protected by a good farmstead windbreak that is fenced. Incidentally, the melons that he speaks of are melons grown next to his 1937 shelterbelt. Mr. Fertig donated 100 melons to the Fay Shelterbelt Picnic.

- R. V. Johnston, Kans.

I&E PAVES THE WAY

Recently in making a work-load analysis of one of his Subdistricts, District Officer Ralph Johnston, of Kansas, had the following to say in connection with the I&E activity:

"Since most of our work can be based on a sound I&E program, it is thought that by preparing an outline of your I&E activities in advance of other work, much time can be saved in your general administration activities. By developing a strong I&E program, we should be able to eliminate much of the contact work necessary to complete our quotas and to reach our goals on such activities as land negotiations, subsoiling, cultivation, etc., and also improve our relationship with leaders in the community. Each of us has an obligation to the Project and to the community to develop community leaders who will sponsor the program. This can be done only through our efforts in I&E work."

That is a good, clear statement of one of the main objectives of our public relations work, that is, preparing the ground for the local development of the program. Arrival at the viewpoint that I&E is a very handy tool for helping get a heavy job done, rather than merely a more or less unpleasant duty, is the first step toward assured success.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

WE ARE MAKING THE PUBLIC TREE-MINDED

While talking with Mr. Harold Daily, the County Agent of Stafford County, he mentioned that the Extension Service planned to carry 16 projects in the county this year, and he has received more inquiries on landscaping and planting trees around the farmstead than any of the other projects. He thought that the shelterbelt program had done a lot to make these people tree-minded.

Making the people tree-minded so that they will start planting trees, now that we have shown them that they will grow, is an important part of our job, because the planting job is too big for us alone.

- Glenn W. Spring, Kans.

WELCOME!!

We are happy to welcome Associate Forester Kenneth W. Taylor to the Oklahoma Unit. Ken and Mrs. Taylor arrived in Oklahoma City the evening of October 31.

We hope their stay here is long, pleasant, and profitable to them. We are confident the organization and project here will benefit from this addition to our force. We appreciate the fact that North Dakota and the Regional Office have made it possible for Ken to become a part of the Oklahoma organization.

- A. N. Butler, Okla.

AN OUTDOOR EXHIBIT

An exhibit which received favorable comments from audiences was prepared at Quanah, Texas, and displayed on the courthouse lawn. We used an outdoor scheme of exhibition, taking large, well-shaped trees from different belts in the county. The trees selected were Cottonwood, Chinese Elm, Honeylocust, American Elm, Desert Willow, Osageorange, Catalpa, Green Ash, Mulberry and Apricot. The trees were cut the afternoon before the exhibit was set up. Each tree was placed in a clean five-quart oil can, and the can filled with water to keep the leaves from wilting. There was no wilting the first day, and not until the afternoon of the second day did the leaves on the trees start to wilt. American Elm did not wilt at all during this time. However, the cans had to be kept filled with water, especially those holding the Cottonwood and Chinese Elm.

The trees were arranged in a rectangle, 10 x 20 feet, with one side open to the street. Each tree was guyed to the ground in three directions with haywire and stakes. Every tree had a sign attached to it on which was painted the name of the tree species, the shelterbelt owner's name, and the year the tree was planted.

Three large Forest Service shields made from plywood with pictures of shelterbelts from the surrounding area mounted on them--one with cross-sections of trees grown in local belts--another with the Casey poster-- a fifth with shelterbelt diagrams--and a sixth with large cross-sections of Hackberry and Cottonwood and a case with 24 small bottles containing seeds of trees used in shelterbelt plantings were assembled. The large Cottonwood and Hackberry sections had every tenth ring marked with the age of the tree at that point and the calendar date. These shields, about three feet across, were placed on three-legged easels, or stands, arranged inside the tree booth.

Approximately 3,000 people viewed this exhibit.

- Richard M. Townsend, Tex.

OUR "MOVIES" ARE POPULAR

Kansas recently reported on the use of two films loaned by the Washington Office. "Stop Forest Fires" was shown 23 times to 1080 persons, and "Re-Creation" was shown 22 times to 975. The films were shown at Teachers' Institutes and 4-H Clubs. In commenting upon the reception given the films, Mr. Baxter says: "Both were well received by adults and children. They were impressed with the seriousness of fires and the value of trees from a recreational standpoint."

Mr. W. R. Becton, Ranger on the Lake George Ranger District, Pike National Forest, Colorado Springs, Colorado, spent Sunday (November 17) and part of Monday visiting with friends among the local Forest Service Officers. Mr. Becton is very much interested in the Prairie States Forestry Project. He was accompanied by his wife and children.

- T. C. Croker, Tex.

COMMENT FROM THE EAST

A letter was recently published in the Cherokee (Okla.) Republican, from Mrs. Everett Buckles, of Alliance, Ohio. It read in part:

"May I congratulate the people of Alfalfa County on the Free Fair held in Cherokee last week. The exhibits were excellent, and in many instances far surpassed some displays I have seen at much larger County Fairs here in the east, where we have paid fifty cents or more, plus tax, to see them.....

"People here ask us about the shelterbelt plantings. Seeing the living trees in that section, as well as the display, we feel we can answer their questions better now."

AMONG OUR CLIPPINGS

The Wichita-Record-News, of Wichita Falls, Texas, had in its November 23 issue the following item:

DUNKED SHOTGUN FELLS GOOSE: DAD OF HUNTER ENVIOUS

"The gun's all right, always was--it must be me,' ruminated Walter E. Webb Friday when his son, Robert, and Fred Waelder came back from a short hunting trip south of Lake Wichita during the morning.

"Each of the boys got but two shots Friday morning as the flock of geese came over their heads. Waelder had a double-barrel gun, Webb a pumpgun--but with only two shells in the chamber. Waelder got the leader, Webb one of the line.

"Webb's gun was his father's--the same one which spent about 27 hours in silt at the bottom of Lake Wichita two weeks ago when a small boat in which young Webb and two companions were hunting sank suddenly. Fished out, the gun was taken to a gunsmith here and renovated."

WE HAVE VISITORS

We were tremendously pleased to have Acting Chief Earle H. Clapp and Assistant to the Chief R. H. Hammatt spend a few days in Lincoln in November. All of the State Directors with the exception of Al Ford, who was isolated because of failure of communications, and Jack Nelson, who was on a trip in Arizona, met Mr. Clapp and Mr. Hammatt. An excellent opportunity was provided for discussion of the forestry situation in the country and of the work of the shelterbelt project.

A short field trip was made with Mr. Clapp into the planting area in the vicinity of Neligh, Nebraska, and Mr. Clapp was very much pleased with the shelterbelts which he saw. We hope that both of these men will be able to come back sometime when they can see the belts in full leaf.